

INTERNAL SPHERES' OF CHINA A MENACE

Greater Obstacle to Her Progress Than Foreign Foot-holds, Says Kawakami.

DISORGANIZE THE NATION

Japanese Writer Refers to Provinces Carved Out by Military Governors.

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Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.

The Chinese proposal, now before the Eastern committee, that foreign spheres of influence in China be abolished, ought to be accepted. It comes within the scope of articles 1 and 3 of the Root formula, respecting the territorial and administrative integrity of China, as well as the principles of the open door and equal opportunity.

It is not easy to ascertain the territorial extent of the spheres of influence set up by different Powers in different sections of China. But as generally understood by authoritative writers on the subject, the spheres of influence in China may be apportioned among four nations as follows:

RUSSIA.	Square Miles.
Outer Mongolia.....	1,000,000
Inner Mongolia.....	275,000
Three-fourths of Manchuria.....	1,821,000
Total for Russia.....	3,096,000
GREAT BRITAIN.	Square Miles.
East China.....	533,000
Shantung.....	215,000
Yangtze Valley.....	382,000
Total for Great Britain.....	1,130,000
FRANCE.	Square Miles.
Yunnan.....	145,700
Kweichow.....	72,500
Total for France.....	218,200
JAPAN.	Square Miles.
South Manchuria.....	90,000
Port of Shantung.....	40,000
Port of Shantung.....	25,000
Total for Japan.....	155,000

One Reason for Alliance.

Before the war Germany claimed the whole province of Shantung, 55,000 square miles, as her exclusive sphere of influence. Of course, Germany was not satisfied with Shantung. In the empire scheme of the Wilhelmstrasse were included several provinces adjoining Shantung as ultimate German preserves. With that end in view she was making steady inroads in the direction of the Yangtze Valley, the British sphere of influence. To prepare against this rising German tide in China was one of the reasons for British solicitude for the alliance with Japan.

Chronologically speaking, Germany was the first to initiate the idea of the sphere of influence in a formal treaty with China. In the Sino-German agreement of 1895 and 1896, it is provided that in the province of Shantung the Chinese Government and merchants should give preference to Germany in the employment of foreigners or foreign capital, as well as in the purchase of foreign materials for railway and other important enterprises. Great Britain, in order to secure her position in the Yangtze Valley, entered into an agreement with Germany recognizing Germany's special position in Shantung and the territory north of the Yellow River. In return of which Germany recognized England's special interests in the Yangtze Valley.

This agreement was soon followed by a similar understanding concluded between Russia and England in 1895. This was called the Scott-Murphyoff agreement. In this agreement Russia promised to confine her activities north of the Great Wall and to recognize British sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley. In the mean time France obtained the concession to build

JAPAN KEEPS MUTSU UNDER AGREEMENT

Continued from First Page.

continue to assert their readiness to do business with their Chinese colleagues on an amicable and reasonable basis, but they are nevertheless insisting with the utmost stubbornness upon acceptance of their terms for relinquishment of their control of the railway properties, which the Chinese delegates demand shall be returned without restrictions.

If the Shantung matter can be settled the American and European delegates believe it will be possible to pull the other loose Chinese ends together and set about construction of a nine Power treaty or individual treaties between China on the one hand and the remaining eight Powers on the other, which will provide a workable plan for the establishment and maintenance of a stable government in that country.

The American delegates have informed their conferees from other countries that any obligation assumed by the United States will be embraced in a treaty and submitted to the Senate for ratification, as has been done in the four point contract applying to the Pacific and the agreement with Japan as to mandated possessions, including the island of Yap.

No decision has been reached as to whether there will be one general treaty or separate treaties in which all the pledges and obligations to be assumed by subscribers will be clearly set forth. European nations are understood to favor the former plan as the natural corollary of the four power contract which has been signed by the United States, Great Britain, France and Japan and sent to the President for transmission to the Senate.

American Attitude.

The American delegates are believed to favor the individual plan, although they are not insistent upon it if the treaties are identical and accomplish the two ambitions in view—the rescue of China from foreign interference and the setting up of a substantial government that will check disorders and thereby minimize the possibility of war in that region of the world.

As soon as the Shantung matter has been settled the special pledges implied by the acceptance of the Root principles, will be taken up. The consideration of most of these has advanced to a stage which indicates final decisions if the Chinese delegation does not project additional suggestions into the situation.

The Pekin delegation contributed a new source of irritation to-day, however, by asking the Far East committee to include in its programme a resolution favoring abrogation of the "twenty-one demands" which Japan forced on China in 1915. The Chinese delegates have assumed that the conference would compel Japan to surrender the privileges wrested from China under the Japanese terms.

Conference sentiment seems to favor the Chinese position in the matter. It is quite probable, however, that the Japanese delegates will oppose interference by the conference on the same grounds that it urged in regard to Manchuria. In other words, the Japanese position is that the "twenty-one point" treaty which Japan forced China to accept is "an accomplished fact" and does not justify the application of retroactive processes.

Siberian Situation.

The Siberian situation is beginning to loom up back of the other Far Eastern problems, but is apparently not viewed with any great concern by American and European delegates, who have been led to believe that Japan will come forward with some sort of a pledge that will be satisfactory to the nations which favor continuance of her military occupation of the Vladivostok region. The unofficial delegations from the Chita and Vlad-

vostok Governments assert that any pledge given by Japan will be worthless until it is accompanied by definite guarantees to the conference itself.

European delegates continue to discuss the advisability of an economic conference following the conclusion of the present conference. Statements made by them reflect an almost unanimous desire on the part of their Governments and important banking interests, both at home and in this country, to have President Harding suggest convening a conference to consider material features of international affairs. Most of the European delegates believe the American President has already decided on such a move and that he will announce it before adjournment of the Washington conference.

TOKIO WELCOMES NAVAL SETTLEMENT

Comment Favorable Also to Pacific Entente.

TOKIO, Dec. 14 (Associated Press).—Acceptance of the naval ratio of the Conference for the Limitation of Armaments was announced in a bulletin this morning, ending weeks of speculation and argument in the press and conference in political circles. The announcement caused general satisfaction.

There had been apparent for some time a desire on the part of members of the Cabinet to see an end to the negotiations and the completion of an agreement along the lines originally proposed at Washington, provided always that Japan's interests were safeguarded. The spirit animating the Ministry was voiced by Viscount Uchida, the Foreign Minister, who in the course of a report to the Cabinet Council yesterday pointed out, according to the official organ of the Government, "the blind persistence of claiming a seventy ratio not only is limited to the very spirit of limitation of armament but is detrimental to the eventual success of the conference."

While there continues to be some adverse criticism in the newspapers over the quadruple entente, the disposition of the people generally, after sober consideration of the treaty, appears to be in favor of its acceptance as evidence of the good faith of all the participants in the treaty.

Touching on the question of the Island of Yap the Kokonai Shimbun expresses

satisfaction over the settlement of the question, expressing the opinion that a settlement should have been reached long ago.

Viscount Uchida in an interview with the newspaper men to-day said with regard to the quadruple Power treaty: "It is regrettable that a pact (the Anglo-Japanese treaty) with its glorious history of twenty years should end. The Japanese people doubtless share this sentiment, but it is a matter for congratulation that the alliance should be enlarged into a quadruple entente, with higher possibilities for contributing to the case of peace and with in greater spheres."

BALFOUR IN MESSAGE URGES CHURCHES' AID

Wants Them to Combat Disposition for War.

CHICAGO, Dec. 14.—In a message sent by Arthur J. Balfour, head of the British delegation to the armament conference, to the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, he declared that limitation of armament in a world determined to fight would be a vain undertaking. The Federal Council opened a three day session here to-day.

"It would be vain," the message reads, "for statesmen to diminish armaments and contrive treaties of conciliation in a world determined to fight. Even the unforgettable horrors of war will not prevent nations rushing to mutual destruction."

"More is required and that 'more' the churches must help to provide. It is not that I desire to see the churches take any corporate share in current political controversy. The churches have a higher mission for it is their supreme duty to raise the ideals of the community and to create the atmosphere in which these ideals can flourish."

DANCE TO HELP SCHOOL FUND.

An entertainment and dance to raise funds for a new gymnasium will be held at Horace Mann School in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria to-morrow evening. Justice Richard H. Mitchell of the Supreme Court, newly elected president of the Father's Association of the school; Gustavus A. Rogers, Harry F. Lauchman and other members of the association will attend.

5-5-3 RATIO STANDS IN NAVAL STRENGTH

Continued from First Page.

that Japan wishes to retain, was regarded as decided upon the basis that

the United States is to have two battleships of the Colorado class, now building and Great Britain two of the Hood type, plans for which have been prepared. This would maintain the 5-5-3 ratio, although it was understood that older vessels would be scrapped to make up for the added strength.

The Japanese have fallen in with the original British proposal that some way

be found to keep the shipyards going, at least for the present. This suggestion has not met the opposition of the American Government, but there is considerable question of how this can be accomplished without adding materially to the naval strength of the three nations.

It is said that this problem is one that is causing considerable difficulty on the part of the delegates, but that the prospects for ironing out the technical details are good.

OPEN EVENINGS

Until Christmas

For the convenience of those who cannot call at other times.

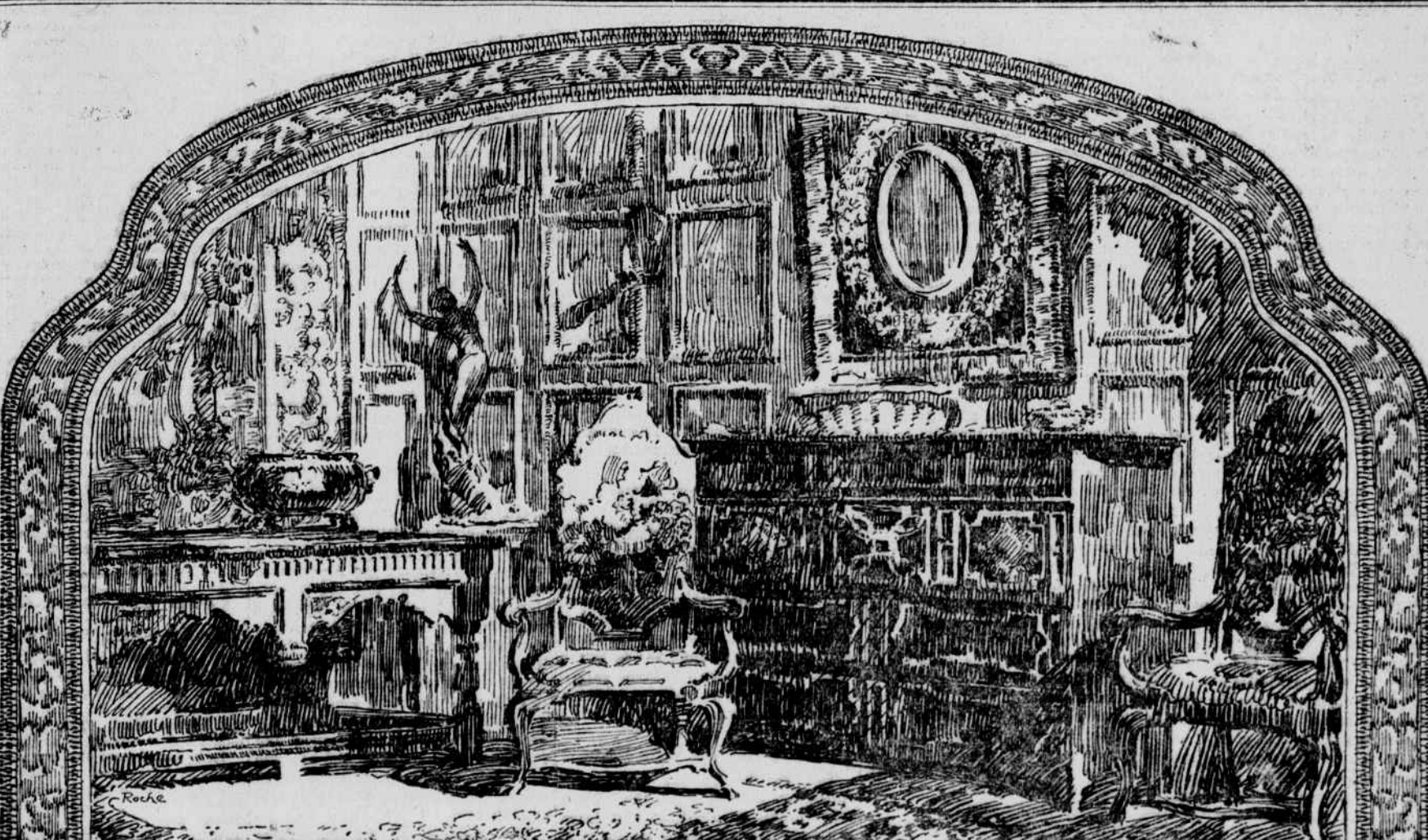
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OUR MERRY CHRISTMAS PACKAGE will gladden twenty-five hearts on Christmas morning. Think of twenty-five Kiddies—Think of 25 unfortunate little ones who are so glad to have a Christmas cheer and a little something to eat. Here are 25 beautifully decorated boxes containing Assorted Chocolates in delicious fruit flavors, packed in strong shipping carton, delivered free anywhere in Greater New York for a \$5.00 Bill. If Package is to be sent out of city add 50c for parcel posting.

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